



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

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April 13, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1007

The Honorable Jon L. Kyl
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0304

Dear Senators Chambliss and Kyl:

The American Farm Bureau Federation strongly supports the Chambliss-Kyl Amendment and urges its adoption when it is considered on the Senate floor.

This amendment would provide U.S. agriculture a clear, simple, timely and efficient H-2a program to fill seasonal and temporary jobs for which there is a limited U.S. labor supply. In order to recruit a worker from abroad, an employer would first have to make every reasonable effort to find an American worker. This is exactly the kind of meaningful reform that is necessary to provide all sectors of agriculture with a workable program while protecting American workers.

The measure also deals sensibly and fairly with illegal immigrants who are now working in agriculture, who meet strict criteria and who pose no security threat. Employers would petition to have such workers granted "blue card" temporary worker status. Once granted, a blue card would be valid for three years and could be renewed a maximum of two times (exceptions may be considered for supervisory employees.)

This amendment does not grant amnesty to illegal aliens. Blue card workers would have the right to change jobs, earn a fair wage and enjoy the same working conditions the law requires for American workers. Blue card workers would be protected by ALL labor laws. Blue card workers could travel freely and legally back and forth to their home country.

The Chambliss-Kyl proposal strikes a reasonable balance among employers, hard-working employees who are striving to better themselves and the need and obligation of our country to control the flow of immigrants.

AFBF supports the Chambliss-Kyl amendment and we urge your fellow Senators to vote for this proposal when it is considered in the Senate.

Sincerely,

Bob Stallman
President